

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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APPROVED BY ARA/ECP:WEKNEPPER

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT:SCCN MEETING ON CONSOLIDATED LIST OF LATIN
AMERICAN PRODUCTS RECOMMENDED FOR INCLUSION IN U.S.
GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

1. THE AD HOC TRADE GROUP OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR
CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATION (SCCN-A COMMITTEE OF THE
IA-ECOSOC OF THE OAS) HAS SCHEDULED A MEETING IN
GUATEMALA NOVEMBER 11-15 TO REVIEW THE PRODUCT LISTS
SUBMITTED BY MEMBER COUNTRIES TO THE SCCN. THE PURPOSE
OF THE REVIEW IS TO ELABORATE A CONSOLIDATED LATIN
AMERICAN PRODUCT LIST WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE
U.S. FOR CONSIDERATION AS THE ADMINISTRATION PREPARES
ITS PROPOSED GSP PRODUCT LIST. AUTHORITY TO EXTEND GSP
IS INCLUDED UNDER TITLE V OF THE TRADE REFORM ACT, WHICH
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WE ANTICIPATE WILL BE PASSED BY THE CONGRESS IN DECEMBER.

SHORTLY THEREAFTER THE ADMINISTRATION PLANS TO SUBMIT A PROPOSED PRODUCT LIST TO THE U.S. TARIFF COMMISSION, WHICH WILL HAVE UP TO SIX MONTHS TO PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT, WHO WILL MAKE THE FINAL DECISION AS TO THE PRODUCTS TO BE INCLUDED.

2. WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE OAS SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL WHO SHARE OUR VIEW THAT MANY OF THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY LISTS THAT WERE SUBMITTED TO THE SCCN ARE UNREALISTIC AND NOT RESPONSIVE TO THE SPECIFIC TRADE NEEDS

OF MANY OF THE COUNTRIES. LARGELY FOR THIS REASON, SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL URGED THAT THE MEETING BE HELD IN GUATEMALA SO THAT MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WOULD SEND TECHNICAL-LEVEL PERSONNEL TO THE MEETING RATHER THAN RELY ON REPRESENTATION FROM EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN WASHINGTON WHO ARE NOT, IN GENERAL, FAMILIAR WITH SPECIFIC PRODUCT INTERESTS OF THEIR COUNTRY. IT IS HOPED THAT PARTICIPATION BY TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE GSP WILL RESULT IN A CONSTRUCTIVE REVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL LATIN AMERICAN PRODUCT REQUESTS (TOTALLING ABOUT 2,800 ITEMS) SO AS TO PARE DOWN THESE REQUESTS AND PRESENT THE U.S. WITH A REALISTIC, CONSOLIDATED LIST THAT PINPOINTS, WITH SOME ORDER OF PRIORITY, SPECIFIC LATIN AMERICAN TRADE OBJECTIVES VIS-A-VIS THE GSP. FYI: IN OUR VIEW ONLY BRAZIL AND CHILE HAVE SUBMITTED REALISTIC PRODUCT LISTS. END FYI.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: INFORM APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SCCN MEETING TO THEIR INTEREST IN ELABORATING PRODUCT LIST WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO MAXIMIZATION OF GSP BENEFITS FOR HOST COUNTRY. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT SUCCESS OF THE MEETING DEPENDS IN LARGE PART ON REPRESENTATION BY TECHNICAL-LEVEL PERSONNEL WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH PROPOSED GSP AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ON SPECIFIC TRADE INTERESTS, I.E. INDIVIDUAL PRODUCTS, OF HOST COUNTRY SO AS TO PERMIT PRIORITY LISTING OF THESE PRODUCTS. INGERSOLL

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